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INVENTOR: RAYMOND HESLINE  
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/553,132  
FILED: 10/14/2005  
GROUP ART UNIT: 2872  
EXAMINER: DEREK S. CHAPEL  
TITLE: OPTICAL ISOLATOR, ATTENUATOR, CIRCULATOR AND SWITCH

By Facsimile 571-273-8300

December 5th, 2008

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir,

Response to Office Action, September 5th, 2008

Claims 1-12 have been cancelled. Claims 13-20 are pending.

35 USC § 103(a)

To address the objection concerning obviousness:-

1. The present device is more than the sum of its parts.

Replacing birefringent plates with the prisms of Hesline (US Pat. 5,864,428) in optical isolators, attenuators, circulators and switches can reduce the amount of birefringent material used in such devices by a factor of at least five. This can be of great value in reducing the cost of devices, because commonly used birefringent materials such as rutile and yttrium vanadate are very expensive.